

APPROVED: Meeting No. 31-90

ATTEST: *Sharon A. Gran*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 30-90

July 16, 1990

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, Maryland Avenue at Vinson Street, Rockville, Maryland, on July 16, 1990, at 8:10 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Douglas M. Duncan

Councilmember James F. Coyle

Councilmember Viola D. Hovsepian

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember David Robbins

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer, City Clerk Sharon Gran and City Attorney Paul Glasgow.

Re: City Hall Space Needs

Just prior to convening in worksession, the Mayor and Council completed a tour of City Hall in connection with space needs. Several questions were posed to staff regarding the space needs study being conducted by Wheeler, Goodman, Masek & Associates. Staff responded that the next phase of the study should be completed within 30-60 days; the contract provides for analysis of several sites including the present site; the alternatives to be studied include construction of a new City Hall as well as the use of existing space in other facilities. Staff also advised that the consultant would consider noise analysis and records storage needs in the study.

Mayor Duncan commented that the tour illustrated a drastic need to respond to the space problems and invited any citizen to feel free to come to City Hall to view firsthand the working conditions of City employees.

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Upon motion of Councilmember Robbins, duly seconded and unanimously passed, staff was directed to study two alternatives to provide ten-year City Hall space needs; one alternative to be an examination of the options available and costs of implementation at the current City Hall site and the second alternative to address space needs at some other location within the Town Center area.

Re: Town Center Transportation
Issues

The City Manager provided a brief introduction of the issue of traffic in Town Center. He noted that the City has contracted with the firm of JHK & Associates to provide general information and applications on the subject of traffic mobility and how it can be assessed for the Town Center and to apply evaluation measures in the calculation of surplus "development capacity" for the Town Center and in the determination of desirable capital improvement projects.

Following a presentation on Standard Traffic Methodology by the City's Transportation Planner and a definition of the area considered as "Town Center" by the Chief Planner, Kevin Hooper of JHK & Associates noted that the overall objective of the worksession was to determine development potential in Rockville Town Center from a perspective of traffic mobility.

Mr. Hooper went on to review the following:

- o typical terms describing traffic congestion;
- o perception of traffic congestion being a function of many factors such as trip mode, trip purpose;
- o temperature/congestion analogy; and
- o alternatives available to motorists, such as taking an alternate route or changing the trip time period.

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Following the presentation of a videotape on "Understanding Traffic Congestion," the Mayor and Council identified some issues of concern. Among these issues were the difficulties experienced by Rockville residents in going to and from work and the travel time for Rockville residents to reach schools and churches within the City limits. Concerns of neighborhoods regarding heavy traffic on residential streets were also emphasized.

The Level of Service was discussed, and staff noted that, on average, traffic in Rockville Town Center falls within the Level of Service D. Councilmember Hovsepien inquired as to responsibility for correlation between traffic congestion and its impact on the environment in terms of pollution. Staff noted that there are computer programs available which simulate patterns; however, staff is aware of the impact qualitatively. Councilmember Coyle noted the EPA standards for pollution and that the City could be penalized in the event of violation of these standards. The issue of pedestrian safety vis-a-vis traffic congestion was also discussed.

It was agreed that another worksession would be held in the near future to discuss potential traffic flow measures. Mayor Duncan indicated that he hoped the Planning Commission and the Traffic and Transportation Commission would have an opportunity to comment for input at the next worksession.

Re: FYI/Correspondence

Councilmember Coyle congratulated Councilmember Marrinan on his election to the position of Secretary-Treasurer for the Council of Governments.

With respect to the F. Scott Fitzgerald commemoration, Mayor Duncan requested information regarding specific plans and dates.

Regarding the petition for permit parking on Trail House Court, Mayor Duncan was advised that a public hearing has been scheduled for September 17. He stated that the possibility of administratively handling designations for small streets such as this

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should again be reviewed.

The request of the Rockville Housing Authority for support for their application for additional public housing units was discussed. It was agreed that a letter of intent indicating support of the Mayor and Council for this project would be provided with the understanding that the Mayor and Council reserves the right to revisit the issue. It was further agreed that this issue would be placed on the August 6 agenda and that input from nearby neighborhoods would be solicited.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m., to convene again in General Session at 7:30 p.m. on July 23, 1990, or at the call of the Mayor.